

STRATEGY BOARD WILL DETERMINE WORK OF NAVY

House Committee Votes
for New Bureau of
Operations.

FIRST STEP FOR REORGANIZATION

Appropriation of \$1,000,
000 for Aeroplanes Also
Agreed Upon.

From the Tribune Bureau.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Definite action leading to the reorganization of the chief work of the navy was taken today by the House Committee on Naval Affairs, when it voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of its sub-committee for the creation of a bureau of naval operations. "We have authorized the first constructive piece of legislation toward the reorganization of our navy," said a member of the committee.

The full Naval Affairs Committee also accepted the sub-committee's proposal of a \$1,000,000 appropriation to purchase aeroplanes for the navy and authorizing a material increase in the salaries of aeronauts operating these machines.

Explaining the significance of the creation of a bureau of naval operations, or board of operations, Mr. Hobson said: "The work which would be done by the bureau will be approximately forecast in the Tribune two days ago. Representative Hobson said to-night:

"The bureau is to consist of a chief of naval operations, assisted by fifteen officers, assigned to the exclusive duties of preparing general and detailed plans of war. The bureau will be under the Secretary of the Navy, but there is no probability that the war plans of this board of experts ever will be set aside by a committee."

Sentimental in the House is believed to be favorable to the creation of such a bureau. It is regarded as the first step toward taking politics out of the navy, or the navy out of politics, and as tending to place naval operations on a scientific and strategic plane.

Division of Duties.

In explanation of the functions of the new bureau, Mr. Hobson made this statement:

"Its work may be conveniently divided among nine committees or 'sections':"

"The historical section studies past campaigns, analyzes them and deduces a comprehensive conception of war. From this conception it deduces broad and general 'doctrines' as guides for our officer personnel in their conduct of war. By means of these 'doctrines' the personnel works with a prearranged understanding, without necessarily being consulted in detail.

"The technical section studies possible future war, endeavoring to forecast the possibilities of international conflict and to devise measures to carry out the policies determined by the government. The various policies of their own nation, as outlined by the State Department, are studied, and upon these are based the naval strategy of possible future war."

The strategic section studies the theatres of possible wars from every aspect, and the sources and means of supply to the military and naval forces. The strategic situation in each case is studied not only from our point of view but from the enemy's point of view and his probable course of action.

"The tactical section studies tactics, particularly in relation to the strategy determined, and endeavors to insure that the tactics of the fleet are kept constantly up to date and conform to American Express in B. & M.

The American Express Company has arranged a new contract with the Boston & Maine on the basis of approximately 42½ per cent as the operating privilege. The new contract became effective on January 1 and runs for one year. It will result in an adjustment of the lawsuits over the express company's contracts now pending in the New Hampshire courts.

CALLS FOR FACTS OF COAST DEFENCE

Gardner Wants House to Ask Garrison About the Range of Big Guns.

DECLARES BRITISH WEAPONS SUPERIOR

Superdreadnoughts, He Says, Can Outshoot American Guns by Four Miles.

[From the Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Jan. 6.—In a resolution introduced in the House to-day Representative Augustus P. Gardner asks Secretary of War Garrison to submit to Congress the facts concerning claims that the coast defence guns of this country are of materially inferior range as compared with the range of guns of the British superdreadnoughts of the Queen Elizabeth type.

"In view of all the statements and counter statements which are being made about the range of the guns in our coast defences, I have propounded these questions to the Secretary of War, so as to clear the matter up officially," said Mr. Gardner.

"The fact is that the British superdreadnoughts of the Queen Elizabeth type are equipped with eight 15-inch guns each. These guns at their maximum elevation carry 21,000 yards—over four miles more than the range of our 12-inch coast defence guns as at present mounted. It is true that it is claimed by the Ordnance Bureau that in ten months our 12-inch guns could be remounted so as to have a maximum range of 20,000 yards, but this would involve a reduction in the strength of the projectile for armor penetration, or else a reduction in the weight of the gun charge."

"The fact is that we have no coast defence guns larger than 12 inches, either mounted or provided for, on our whole Atlantic seaboard. For the Pacific Coast we have provided four 14-inch guns, but none of them is yet mounted. For the Panama Canal we have provided ten 14-inch guns, two of which are now completely mounted. These 14-inch guns will, of course, be superior weapons when they are mounted.

"In addition to these, I understand, it is proposed to send to Panama the old 16-inch cannon which has been lying for the last ten or a dozen years in the sands of Long Island."

The Gardner resolution asks these four questions of Secretary Garrison: "Is there any gun mounted in the fortifications of the United States proper larger than 12 inches in diameter? If so, where?"

"Is the range of these 12-inch guns as at present mounted more than 13,000 yards?"

"Is the British dreadnoughts of the Queen Elizabeth type being equipped with 15-inch 45-calibre guns?"

"Is the range of those 15-inch guns 21,000 yards, and is it not true that range exceeds by over four miles the range of the best guns mounted in the defence of the United States proper, either on the Atlantic or Pacific coast, not including the Panama Canal?"

Steamship Men Honor Coverly

Twenty-six of the leading steamship men gave a luncheon for William Coverly, the retiring manager of the Anchor Line, at the Whitehall Club yesterday, and presented to him a loving cup.

Charles B. Sumner, who now manages the Cunard and Anchor lines, was chairman and toastmaster.

Packard supremacy has become an institution. Car standards change from year to year—but the discriminating buyer is always sure of the Packard. It is his constant criterion.

The character of the ships and weapons that will be used. It also studies the enemy's forces, together with the probable tactics which we will employ.

Logistic Aspects Studied.

The logistic section studies the logistic aspects of the strategic and tactical plans and deduces the following:

"(a) Requirements as to supplies at the beginning of war.

"(b) Requirements for subsequent phases of the war.

"(c) Sources of supply and supplies available.

"(d) Organization of transportation.

"(e) Organization of the auxiliaries forming the fleet train.

"(f) A list of available merchant vessels, their characteristics, whereabouts and places of assembly for alterations and the time required to place each in condition.

"(g) Inspection of merchant vessels, and the final decision in each case as to the use to which the vessel shall be put, the alterations to be made, the yard to which assigned, and tentative arrangements with owners as to price and mode of transfer.

"(h) Detailed plans for the assembly of supplies.

"(i) Orders necessary for the execution of the plans.

It was explained that the organization section could devise plans to obtain the most efficient flow of authority in war time, the detail of personnel for command, the orders necessary for the execution of the various programmes of action and the best administrative and tactical groupings of the Queen Elizabeth type.

The section will be training section devoted to the training of strategical problems of the naval forces. This section will deal particularly with combined fleet manoeuvres and the practice of scouts, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, aircraft and mining vessels. The executive section will see that the plans carefully devised are carried into effect.

"The mobilization section," said Mr. Hobson, "prepares and keeps ready up to date plans of mobilization for war for each of the various situations arising from conflict with possible enemies. These plans must show:

"(a) Vessels to be mobilized.

"(b) Detailed scheme of organization and utilization of naval reserve, naval militia, ex-navy men and others who would be needed on the outbreak of war.

"(c) Names of their chief officers.

"(d) Dates when mobilization of the various types of ships must be completed.

"(e) Places of assembly.

"(f) Plan of recruiting organization.

"(g) Orders necessary for execution of plans.

Importance of the Work.

The importance of the work of the new board may be judged from the fact that in Great Britain it is performed by a separate organization, called the Naval War Staff, composed of about thirty-nine line officers, a few staff officers and about thirty-one civilians.

The Admiralty, the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery are represented on the staff.

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